



## National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Michigan State Conference

*Celebrating 75 Years of Ensuring Equal Rights for "All"*

March 7, 2011

Yvonne M. White  
President

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Youth & College Division  
President

**Locations:**

Albion  
Ann Arbor  
Battle Creek  
Bay City  
Central Michigan University  
Detroit Central  
East Detroit  
Eastern Michigan University  
Ferris State University  
Flint  
Grand Rapids  
Hamtramck  
Highland Park  
Jackson County  
Kalamazoo  
Lake & Newago Counties  
Lansing  
Lenawee County  
Macomb County  
Monroe County  
Muskegon  
Niles  
Northern Oakland County  
Oak Park High School  
Olivet College  
Port Huron  
River Rouge/Ecorse  
Saginaw  
Southern Oakland County  
Southwest Detroit  
Three Rivers  
Twin City Area  
University of Michigan  
Van Buren County  
Wayne State University  
Western Michigan University  
Western Wayne County  
Ypsilanti/Willow Run

State Representative Ken Horn  
State Representative Roy Schmidt  
State Senator Mike Nofs  
State Senator Hoon-Yung Hopgood

Dear Michigan Legislative Leaders:

I am writing on behalf of NAACP units throughout Michigan asking that you **immediately pass bipartisan legislation modernizing the outdated Telecommunications Act (MTA)** in an effort to create and keep jobs and spur economic growth for Michigan.

Now more than ever before, access to broadband, wireless and other telecommunications technologies are a critical component to educational and economic success.

The NAACP is committed to ensuring that every Michigan resident is provided equal access to the best jobs, economic information, knowledge, technology and training.

We support the principles of modernization and efficiency that underline this type of regulatory reform because it will improve educational and economic opportunities for all Michigan residents. Furthermore, modernization is consistent with calls by President Barack Obama to avoid "excessive, inconsistent, and redundant regulation" and Governor Rick Snyder to "reinvent Michigan."

Since both President Obama and Governor Snyder have placed regulatory reform on the top of their policymaking agendas, we ask the state Legislature to follow suit. This legislation is just the first of what we hope will be sweeping changes that eliminate dated and wasteful regulations that burden minority businesses and consumers alike.

States are in competition with one another. Previous telecom regulatory reform right here in Michigan has reaped numerous benefits including increased choice, competition, investment and innovation, benefitting residents across the state.

Unfortunately, the past has also proven what happens when Michigan allows its neighbors to pass it by with jobs and investment. Opportunities that should be ours go instead to Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin.

We believe the state should adopt policies that will encourage additional investment in broadband and wireless technology, making it faster and more accessible to ensure that every Michigan resident has the absolute opportunity for educational and economic success. Modernizing the MTA is a critical step on that important road.

Thank you for your careful and urgent consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Yvonne M. White  
State President  
Michigan State Conference NAACP